

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the Suspension or	)	
	)	
Revocation of the Educator Certificate of	)	<b>ORDER OF SUSPENSION</b>
	)	
Paige Elmore,	)	
	)	
Certificate 227466	)	

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on November 14, 2007. On September 19, 2007, the South Carolina Department of Education (Department) sent Paige Elmore a notice of her right to a hearing before the State Board concerning the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate 227466 by regular and certified mail, return receipt, restricted delivery. On September 26, 2007, Ms. Elmore received the notice letter as evidenced by a postal receipt bearing her signature. Ms. Elmore did not request a hearing within the time frame specified in the letter. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to order the suspension of Ms. Elmore's certificate for a one-year period.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Ms. Elmore holds a valid South Carolina educator certificate in Special Education and has over four years of teaching experience. During the 2006-07 school year, Ms. Elmore was employed by Lexington County School District Five (District) as a resource teacher at Irmo High School (School). Ms. Elmore resigned from her employment, effective June 1, 2007, following an allegation that she signed the name of another District employee to a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) documents.

On May 31, 2007, the head of the School's special education department discovered that two IEP documents for a student contained what appeared to be falsified signatures. The special services employee whose signature appeared on the two IEP documents confirmed that both signatures had been forged. The District special services director and the School's special education department head, along with the School principal, met with Ms. Elmore to discuss the allegations that Ms. Elmore had forged signatures on two pages of a student's IEP. Ms. Elmore admitted that she signed her co-worker's signature on the documents dated April 5, 2007, and states that she had no excuse for her poor judgment.

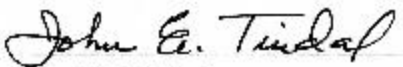
On June 11, 2007, the District chief human resource services officer met with Ms. Elmore to discuss the allegations and to allow Ms. Elmore to explain why she forged her co-worker's signature on the IEP documents. Ms. Elmore stated she had no excuses, but indicated she had no malicious intent. Ms. Elmore was then given the opportunity to resign. On June 15, 2007, Ms. Elmore entered into a resignation agreement with the District, effective June 1, 2007.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (Supp. 2006). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct and dishonesty, S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Codes Regs. 43-58 (Supp. 2006). The State Board finds that the information presented supports its determination that just cause exists to suspend Ms. Elmore's certificate for a period of one year, through November 13, 2008. If Ms. Elmore wishes to have her certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she must make a written request to the Department's Office of Educator Certification.

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South Carolina State Board of Education

By:   
John Tindal, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
November 14, 2007